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REMARKS

Claims 1 – 4, 7 and 9 – 36 are pending. The examiner has allowed claims 11 – 18, 27 and 28. The examiner has objected to claims 3, 33, 34 and 36 because they contain allowable subject matter but depend from a rejected claim. The examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 10, 19 – 26, 29 – 32 and 35.

The applicant's attorney amends claims 1, 3, 19, 24, 26, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34 and 36. Claims 3, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34 and 36 have been amended to convert them into independent claims by incorporating the subject matter of independent claim 1 that each depends from. The amendments to these claims do not narrow them. The applicant's attorney respectfully disagrees with the examiner's rejection against claims 29, 30 and 32 for at least the reasons discussed below. The applicant's attorney also asserts that claims 1 – 4, 7 and 9 – 36, as amended, are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed below.

If, after considering this response, the examiner believes the claims should not be allowed, the applicants' attorney respectfully requests that before issuing an Office Action, the examiner call Mr. John Janeway (425-455- 5575) to schedule a telephone conference to further the prosecution of the claims.

Claims 1 – 4, 7, 9 – 10 and 29 – 36

The applicant's claim 1, as amended, recites a multi-mode hull operable to allow the vessel to maneuver in at least three operational modes.

The applicant's attorney respectfully asserts that claim 1, as amended, is patentable over U.S. Patent 3,776,167 (Marbury) at least because Marbury fails to disclose a hull maneuvering in at least three operational modes.

Claims 2, 4, 7, 9 – 10, 31, 35 and 36 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies on claim 1 as amended.

The applicant's claim 29, as rejected, recites maneuvering a vessel in a logistics mode. The applicant's claim 30, as rejected, recites maneuvering a vessel in a

catamaran mode. The applicant's claim 32, as rejected, recites maneuvering a vessel in a low freeboard mode.

The applicant's attorney respectfully asserts that claims 29, 30 and 32, as rejected, are patentable over (Marbury) at least because Marbury fails to disclose a hull maneuvering in a logistics mode, a catamaran mode, and a low freeboard mode.

Claims 19 – 23

Claim 19, as amended, is patentable over Marbury at least for reasons similar to those recited above in support of claim 1 over Marbury.

Claims 20 – 23 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies from claim 19.

Claims 24 and 25

Claim 24, as amended, is patentable over Marbury at least for reasons similar to those recited above in support of claim 1 over Marbury.

Claim 25 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 24.

Claim 26

Claim 26 is patentable over Marbury at least for reasons similar to those recited above in support of claim 1 over Marbury.

Conclusion

The applicant's attorney respectfully requests the examiner withdraw the rejection and objection to claims 1 – 4, 7, 9, 10, 19 – 26, 29 – 36, as amended, and issue an allowance for claims 1 – 4, 7 and 9 – 36, as amended.

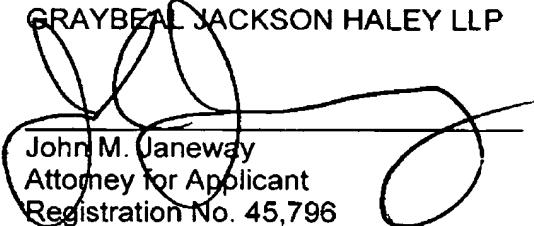
Should any additional fees be required, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 07-1897.

If, after considering this response, the examiner believes the claims should not be allowed, the applicants' attorney respectfully requests that before issuing an Office Action, the examiner call to schedule a telephone conference to further the prosecution of the claims.

DATED this 23rd day of August 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

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